

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

Imidazolium salts are the immediate precursors to *N*-heterocyclic carbenes (NHC) yet a simple, general synthetic route to a wide variety of imidazolium salts is not yet available. Such a straightforward route is described for two specific members of this family of ligand precursor: 1,3-Bis(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)imidazolium chloride (IMes·HCl) and 1,3-Bis(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)imidazolium chloride (IPr·HCl). The procedure appears general and similar protocols can be used to isolate various imidazolium salts.

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